

A Mayan Hands Adventure - February 8 – 18, 2009

\$1450 includes everything but airfare and personal shopping
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[\(click here for a registration form\)](#)

There is no better way to be able to promote fair trade and understand the lives of the weavers and other craftswomen than to visit them in their homes. Next February Mayan Hands is hosting a guided tour to visit groups in four of the ten communities where we work. **We are taking only eight visitors**, allowing for more personal meetings with the women. Guides and translators will be members of the Mayan Hands staff. There will also be time to peruse the local markets, to see the millions of crafts available, and why fair trade makes a difference in cost, quality, and design. You will even get to try your hand at backstrap weaving, an enlightening experience.

Sunday, February 8 is the day to **fly into Guatemala City**, where we will pick you up and take you to our first gathering place. Activities that day will depend on everyone's arrival times.

Monday will start in Guatemala City with a visit to **Museo Ixchel**, the internationally award winning textile museum. In the afternoon we will visit **UPAVIM**, an inspiring women's cooperative in one of the poorest barrios of Guatemala City.

Tuesday we will take you to **Antigua**, and after a quick turn around the city pointing out places of particular interest, we will turn you loose to enjoy Guatemala's most famous and loved colonial city.

Wednesday we will head into the Highlands, stopping first in the village of **El Adelanto, Sololá**. The MH group there does both crochet (various bags, baby hats) and basketry (both pine needle and sweet grass). From El Adelanto we will make our way to **Lake Atitlán and Panajachel**, where we will sleep for the next six nights.

Thursday will take us to **Santiago Atitlán** (by boat), where you will meet weavers using both backstrap and small foot looms. (children of the world products) We will also see the aftermath of Hurricane Stan and hear more about how the women's lives have changed in the two+ years since a giant mudslide buried their village.

Friday we go to **Vasconcelos and Morales**, two communities very close to each other above Panajachel and Sololá. The talented and hard working women in these two communities work on backstrap looms (table runners, bibs, baby blankets, and more) and also with just their hands (knotting bracelets, making jewelry, etc.). They also do some jaspé/ikat, a tie-dyeing technique applied to the yarn before it is woven to create the designs that distinguish so many Guatemalan textiles.

Saturday will be a **free day**, to wander the markets in Pana, take a boat across the lake to visit other communities, or whatever you want.

Sunday will be for visiting the jaw-dropping market in **Chichicastenango**. We will return to Pana late afternoon, and the evening will be yours to relax as you wish. It can be a good time to just sit by the lake and watch the sun set.

Monday we will introduce you to **Oxlajuj B'atz'**, our education project that focuses on four areas: artisan techniques, small business skills, democracy and organization, and women's health. We will also hear from other NGOs working in the area.

Tuesday we head back to the city, stopping to see the **Mayan ruins at Iximche** and to visit **Lin Canola**, a store with an astonishing array of handwoven Guatemalan fabrics on bolts. We'll have a final dinner and night together before you are free

Wednesday, Feb. 18, to **return home or** visit more of Guatemala on your own.